



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC GRANTS CERTIFICATE TO SOUTHWESTERN BELL AFFILIATE TO OFFER LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE IN MISSOURI

Jefferson City (November 27, 2001)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved a joint recommendation which allows Southwestern Bell Communications Services, Inc. (SBCS) d/b/a SBC Long Distance and SBCS d/b/a Southwestern Bell Long Distance to provide long-distance service within Missouri. The Commission stated in its order: "SBCS's entry into long-distance will increase consumer choice, thereby clearly promoting the public interest."

The Commission has granted a certificate of service authority which authorizes Southwestern Bell Communications Services, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of SBC Communications, Inc. and an affiliate of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, to provide long-distance service within Missouri. This follows Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval on November 16, 2001 of SBC Communications, Inc.'s application to provide long-distance service in Missouri.

The joint recommendation approved by the Commission was submitted by Southwestern Bell Communications Services, Inc. and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission. The Office of the Public Counsel and the Small Telephone Company Group (made up of a number of telephone companies operating in Missouri) were also signatories to the joint recommendation and stated that they did not oppose the adoption of the joint recommendation.

The Commission noted in its order: "The Commission finds that SBCS's entry will most

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likely reduce the current concentration of market share among a few providers in the long-distance industry, thus enhancing competition.” The Commission further stated: “The Commission also finds that SBCS’s entry into the market will promote diversity of services and products to Missouri customers.”

“The Commission finds that SBCS’s pricing plans are simple and easy to understand. The prices are competitive,” the Commission’s order states, “and offer consumers an attractively priced service with no monthly fees. The Commission also finds that SBCS is providing similar plans in its service areas in Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma.”

The Commission’s order granting a certificate of service authority to provide long-distance service in Missouri takes effect on December 7, 2001.

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Case Nos. TA-2001-475 & TA-99-47